

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 8, 2006, has been reviewed and considered by the Applicants. Claim 24 has been cancelled. Claims 6-10, 12-18, 20, 21, 25, and 26 remain pending. Applicants request reconsideration of the Application.

In paragraph 5, claims 6-10, 12-16, 20, 21, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the combination of Yuh, Liu, Ong '737, and Kondo.

In paragraph 7, claims 6-10, 12-18, 21, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the combination of Pai, Yuh, Liu, and Kondo.

Applicant traverses these rejections together.

Upon further review of the references, Applicants note that Kondo does not teach a resilient overcoat layer as required by the claims. According to the Examiner, Kondo does not disclose that his insulating silicone resin is resilient. On page 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner explains that resilient is commonly defined as "elastic, rebounding". According to Kondo, the insulating layer is formed for the purpose of "protecting the photoconductive layer, improving the mechanical strength of the photosensitive member, and bettering the dark decay characteristics of the [imaging] member." Because it improves the mechanical strength of the member, it is reasonable to conclude that Kondo's insulating layer is also resilient.

Applicants disagree with this conclusion. The three purposes of protection, improvement of mechanical strength, and bettering dark decay characteristics do not inherently require the insulating layer to be resilient. Improvement of mechanical strength is also usually interpreted as making the layer stiffer – for example, a sheet of steel versus an aluminum gum wrapper. Kondo does not appear to teach that the insulating layer is made mechanically stronger by making it easier to bend. Thus, it is not reasonable to assume that Kondo's insulating layer is resilient. Therefore, the instant claim 10 is not obvious because not all claim limitations are taught. MPEP § 2143.03.

Applicants request withdrawal of the 103(a) rejection.

In paragraph 6, claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the combination of Yuh, Liu, Kondo, Knauf, and Hendrickson.

In paragraph 8, claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the combination of Pai, Yuh, Liu, Kondo, Knauf, and Hendrickson.

Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, claim 24 has been cancelled. Therefore, these rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSION

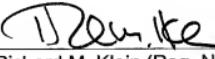
For those reasons, all pending claims (6-10, 12-18, 20, 21, 25, and 26) are believed to be in a condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is hereby authorized to call Richard M. Klein, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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